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the elephant, having similarly narrow and contracted anterior lobes, and having the transverse diameter of the encephalon exceeding the longitudinal. Besides in elephants and mastodons, this last condition exists only in Cetaceans. Dr. Wyman remarked upon the transition from the genus mastodon to that of the elephant, as shown by the teeth in the different species discovered by Falconer and Coutley in Asia, and upon the similarity in the forms of the brains, as showing a much closer affinity between the two genera than had generally been supposed to exist.

Three hundred and seventy-third meeting.

January 4, 1853. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

Dr. Walter Channing made some remarks on meteorological phenomena noticed by him in a recent voyage to Europe; among others, on the remarkable brilliancy of the nights in Russia compared with those of more southern latitudes.

Dr. W. F. Channing gave an account of the experiments on the velocity of sound, recently made in this vicinity by Captain Wilkes. The discharge of a cannon was made to break the circuit in a telegraph wire, thus marking exactly the time of discharge and the observance of the sound, and avoiding the personal errors of watching for the flash and recording the exact time. He described an instrument of his invention for recording the first vibration of air from the cannon's discharge. The results are not yet fully compared, so as to show the differences arising from the dryness or dampness of the air, change of elevation, intervening hills, &c.

The Treasurer announced a donation from the Hon. Jonathan Phillips, of one thousand dollars, to the general fund of the Academy.

Whereupon, it was unanimously

“*Voted*, That the thanks of the Academy be presented to the Hon. Jonathan Phillips, for the generous contribution of one thousand dollars to its funds, for the purpose of promoting the progress of science.”